

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-33, 35, 36, 38, 40, 50-52, 54, 56, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68 and 70-74 were previously cancelled. Claims 34, 37, 41, 43, 45, 46, 49, 53, 55, 57, 58, 67 and 69 are currently amended. Claims 42 and 44 are currently cancelled. Claims 39, 47, 48, 59, 61, 63 and 65 are carried forward, all as follows.

Claims 1-33 (Cancelled)

34. (Currently Amended) A guide element of a web processing machine comprising:

A rigid load bearing support including a~~of an at least partially~~ fluid-permeable support material, said fluid permeable support material and having a circumferential outer support surface with a plurality of fluid openings in at least a portion of said circumferential surface;

A coating layer of a micro-porous, fluid-air permeable, open-pored sinter material covering said fluid permeable portion of said circumferential outer support surface of said rigid, load bearing support;

a plurality of micro-openings in said coating layer of said micro-porous, air permeable open-pored sinter material, said plurality of micro-openings being open pores formed in said coating layer of said micro-porous, fluid permeable, open-pored sinter material, said plurality of micro-openings being sized~~adapted~~ to allow emergence of a fluid under pressure from said plurality of fluid openings in said fluid-permeable support material in-and-around said at least a portion of said circumferential surface of at least one longitudinal section of said guide element and through said coating of said micro-porous, fluid permeable, open-pored sinter material as a fluid cushion; and

means supporting said guide element adapted to be positioned in a selected one of at least first and second angular positions in respect to a direction of travel of a web being guided by contacting said guide element, said web being supported by said fluid cushion while being guided by said guide element.

35. (Cancelled)

36. (Cancelled)

37. (Currently Amended) The guide element of claim 34 wherein in each of said at least first and second angular positions of said guide element, said fluid exits from said micro-openings of said fluid permeable, open-pored sinter material over an entire portion of said circumferential surface of said guide element in at least one longitudinal section.

38. (Cancelled)

39. (Previously Presented) The guide element of claim 34 wherein said guide element is pivotable through 90° and wherein in said first angular position a first half-shell-like half of a surface area is engaged by the web, and in said second angular position a second half-shell-like half of said surface area is engaged by the web.

40. (Cancelled)

41. (Currently Amended) The guide element of claim 34 wherein said open pores in said coating of said micro-porous, fluid permeable, open-pored sinter material have a mean diameter between 5 μm and 50 μm .

42. (Cancelled)

43. (Currently Amended) The guide element of claim ~~34-42~~ wherein said open-pored sinter material is sinter metal.

44. (Cancelled)

45. (Currently Amended) The guide element of claim 34 wherein said coating-layer has a thickness of less than 1 mm.

46. (Currently Amended) The guide element of claim 34 wherein said fluid permeable support material has a plurality of fluid passages, which are not connected with each other, extending over a length and width of said support.

47. (Previously Presented) The guide element of claim 34 wherein said support is a support tube with a hollow profile.

48. (Previously Presented) The guide element of claim 47 wherein said support tube has a wall thickness of at least 3 mm.

49. (Currently Amended) The guide element of claim 34 wherein a degree of opening of said micro-openings in said micro-porous, fluid permeable, open-pored sinter material is between 3% and 30% of an outer surface area of said coating-layer of said micro-porous, fluid permeable, open-pored sinter material.

50-52. (Cancelled)

53. (Currently Amended) The guide element of claim 34 wherein between 1 to 20 standard cubic meters of fluid-air per hour emerges from a square meter of said circumferential surface.

54. (Cancelled)

55. (Currently Amended) The guide element of claim 34 wherein between 2 to 15 standard cubic meters of fluid-air per hour emerge from a square meter of said circumferential surface.

56. (Cancelled)

57. (Currently Amended) The guide element of claim 34 wherein said coating-layer of said micro-porous, fluid-air permeable, open-pored sinter material is charged from an interior of said rigid load bearing support with at least 1 bar of excess pressure.

58. (Currently Amended) The guide element of claim 34 wherein said micro-porous, air permeable, open-pored sinter material is charged from an interior of said rigid load bearing support with an excess pressure of more than 4 bar.

59. (Previously Presented) The guide element of claim 34 further including a feed line adapted to supply fluid to said guide element and having an inner cross-sectioned area no greater than 100 mm².

60. (Cancelled)

61. (Previously Presented) The guide element of claim 34 wherein said guide element has an outer diameter of between 60 mm and 100 mm.

62. (Cancelled)

63. (Previously Presented) The guide element of claim 34 wherein said guide element has a length of at least 1,200 mm.

64. (Cancelled)

65. (Previously Presented) The guide element of claim 34 wherein said guide element is a turning bar.

66. (Cancelled)

67. (Currently Amended) The guide element of claim 34 wherein ~~said~~ the fluid under pressure is compressed air.

68. (Cancelled)

69. (Currently Amended) The guide element of claim 34 wherein said ~~coating layer~~ has a thickness of less than 1 mm.

70-74. (Cancelled)